

With Edged Tools

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN
Author of "The Sowers," "Roden's Corner," "From
One Generation to Another," Etc.

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So that which the placid moon shone down upon was the breakup of the great simiacine scheme. Victor Dur-novo had not come off so badly. He had the larger half of the men by his side. He had all the finest crop the trees had yet yielded, but he had yet to reckon with high heaven!

CHAPTER XX.

SIR JOHN MEREDITH was sitting stilly in a straight-backed chair by his library fire. In his young days men didn't loiter in deep chairs, with their knees higher than their heads. There were no such chairs in this library, just as there was no afternoon tea except for ladies. Sir John Meredith was distressed to observe a great many signs of the degeneration of manhood, which he attributed to the indulgence in afternoon tea. Sir John had lately noticed another degeneration—namely, in the quality of the London gas. So serious was this falling off that he had taken to a lamp in the evening, which lamp stood on the table at his elbow.

There was nothing dismal or lonely about this old man, sitting in evening dress in a high-backed chair, stilly reading a scientific book of the modern, cheap science tenor—not written for scientists, but to step in when the brain is weary of novels and afraid of communing with itself. Oh, no! A gentleman need never be dull. He has his necessary occupations. If he is a man of intellect he need never be idle. It is an occupation to keep up with the times.

He paused in the midst of a scientific definition and looked up with listening eyes. He had got into the way of listening to the passing wheels. Lady Cantourne sometimes called for him on her way to a festivity, but it was not that.

The wheels he heard had stopped. Perhaps it was Lady Cantourne, but he did not think so. She drove behind a pair, and this was not a pair.

A few minutes later the butler silently threw open the door, and Jack stood on the threshold. Sir John Meredith's son had been given back to him from the gates of death.

The son, like the father, was in immaculate evening dress. There was a very subtle cynicism in the thought of turning aside on such a return as this to dress to tie a careful white tie and brush imperceptibly ruffled hair.

There was a little pause, and the two tall men stood, half bowing, with a marvelous similarity of attitude, gazing steadily into each other's eyes. And one cannot help wondering whether it was a mere accident that Jack Meredith stood motionless on the threshold until his father said "Come in."

"Thomson," he continued to the butler, with that pride of keeping up before all the world which was his, "bring up coffee."

The butler closed the door behind him. Sir John was holding on to the back of his high chair in rather a constrained way—almost as if he were suffering pain. They looked at each other again, and there was a resemblance in the very manner of raising the eyelid. There was a stronger resemblance in the grim, waiting silence which neither of them would break.

At last Jack spoke, approaching the fire and looking into it.

"You must excuse my taking you by surprise at this unusual hour." He turned, saw the lamp, the book and the eyeglasses, more especially the eyeglasses, which seemed to break the train of his thoughts. "I only landed at Liverpool this afternoon," he went on, with hopeless politeness. "I did not trouble you with a telegram, knowing that you object to them."

The old man bowed gravely.

"I am always glad to see you," he said suavely. "Will you sit down?"

And they had begun wrong.

"I suppose you have dined," said Sir John when they were seated, "or may I offer you something?"

"Thanks, I dined on the way up, in a twilight refreshment room, with one waiter and a number of attendant black beetles."

Things were going worse and worse. Sir John smiled, and he was still smiling when the man brought in coffee.

"Yes," he said conversationally, "for speed combined with discomfort I suppose we can hold up heads against any country. Seeing that you are dressed, I supposed that you had dined in town."

"No, I drove straight to my rooms and kept the cab while I dressed."

What an important matter this dressing seemed to be! And there were fifteen months behind it—fifteen months which had aged one of them and sobered the other.

Jack was sitting forward in his chair with his immaculate dress shoes on the fender, his knees apart, his elbows resting on them, his eyes still fixed on the fire. Sir John looked keenly at him beneath his frowning, fashless lids. He saw the few gray hairs over Jack's ears, the suggested wrinkles, the drawn lines about his mouth.

"You have been ill?" he said.

Joseph's letter was locked away in the top drawer of his writing table.

"Yes, I had rather a bad time, a serious illness. My man nursed me through it, however, with marked success, and the Gordons, with whom I

was staying, were very kind."

"I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Gordon."

Jack's face was steady, suavely impenetrable.

Sir John moved a little and set his empty cup upon the table.

"A charming girl," he added.

"Yes."

"You are fortunate in that man of yours," Sir John said; "a first class man."

"Yes, he saved my life."

Sir John blinked, and for the first time his fingers went to his mouth, as if his lips had suddenly got beyond his control.

"If I may suggest it," he said rather indistinctly, "I think it would be well if we signified our appreciation of his devotion in some substantial way. We might well do something between us."

He paused and threw back his shoulders.

"I should like to give him some substantial token of my gratitude."

Sir John was nothing if not just.

"Thank you," answered Jack quietly. He turned his head a little and glanced not at his father, but in his direction.

"He will appreciate it, I know."

"I should like to see him tomorrow."

Jack winced, as if he had made a mistake.

"He is not in England," he explained.

"I left him behind me in Africa. He has gone back to the simiacine plateau."

The old man's face dropped rather pitifully.

"I am sorry," he said, with one of the sudden relapses into old age that Lady Cantourne dreaded. "I may not have a chance of seeing him to thank him personally. A good servant is so rare nowadays. These modern democrats seem to think that it is a nobler thing to be a bad servant than a good one. As if we were not all servants!"

He was thirsting for details. There were a thousand questions in his heart, but not one on his lips.

"Will you have the kindness to remember my desire," he went on suavely, "when you are settling up with your man?"

"Thank you," replied Jack. "I am much obliged to you."

"And in the meantime, as you are without a servant, you may as well make use of mine. One of my men—Henry—who is too stupid to get into mischief—a great recommendation, by the way—understands his business. I will ring and have him sent over to four rooms at once."

He did so, and they sat in silence until the butler had come and gone.

"We have been very successful with the simiacine, our scheme," said Jack suddenly. I have brought home a con- signment valued at £70,000."

Sir John's face never changed.

"And," he asked, with veiled sarcasm, "do you carry out the commercial part of the scheme?"

"I shall begin to arrange for the sale of the consignment tomorrow. I shall have no difficulty, at least I anticipate none. Yes, I do the commercial part as well as the other. I held the plateau against 2,000 natives for three months with fifty-five men. But I do the commercial part as well."

As he was looking into the fire still, Sir John stole a long comprehensive glance at his son's face. His old eyes lighted up with pride and something else, possibly love. The clock on the mantelpiece struck 11. Jack looked at it thoughtfully, then he rose.

"I must not keep you any longer," he said somewhat stiffly.

Sir John rose also.

"I dare say you are tired; you need rest. In some ways you look stronger, in others you look fagged and pulled down."

"It is the result of my illness," said Jack. "I am really quite strong."

He paused, standing on the hearth rug, then suddenly he held out his hand.

"Good night," he said.

"Good night."

Sir John allowed him to go to the door, to touch the handle, before he spoke.

"Then—" he said, and Jack paused.

"Then we are no further on?"

"In what way?"

"In respect to the matter over which we unfortunately disagreed before you went away?"

Jack turned with his hand on the door.

"I have not changed my mind in any respect," he said gently. "Perhaps you are inclined to take my altered circumstances into consideration, to modify your views."

"I am getting rather old for modification," answered Sir John suavely.

"And you see no reason for altering your decision?"

"None."

"Then I am afraid we are no further on," he paused. "Good night," he added gently as he opened the door.

"Good night."

Lady Cantourne was meant for happiness and a joyous motherhood. She had had neither; but she went on being "meant" until the end—that is to say she was still cheery and capable. She had thrown an open letter on the little table at her side—a letter from Jack Meredith announcing his return to England and his natural desire to call and pay his respects in the course of the afternoon.

(To be continued.)

TO BUILD SEWER AND NEW STREETS

Proposed By Board of Aldermen At Meeting.

Mayor Yeiser Does Not Like the Idea of the City Paying Damages to Pedestrians.

STOCK POLICEMAN PERMANENT.

The initiative was taken last night by the board of aldermen in the matter of constructing a combined sanitary and storm water sewer in district No. 3, and completing the paving of Broadway and Jefferson street with bitulithite to Eleventh street. The latter improvement comes out of the street bonds. Ordinances for each project were ordered brought in and the city engineer was authorized to contract with Engineer Alvord for detail plans and specifications for the sewer.

Mayor Yeiser is much cut up about persons injured on the streets suing the city, and suggested that the city indemnify itself in an indemnity company against damages, just as manufacturers do against damages for injuries to employees. The suggestion went to the finance committee with power to act.

It is proposed to make the position of stock policeman permanent, and an ordinance will be brought in for that purpose.

The Proceedings.

At 7:35 o'clock President Stark called the meeting to order, and the roll call showed the following to be present: Aldermen Starks, Hubbard, Bell, Chamblin, Hank Miller and Palmer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by City Clerk Henry Bailey and approved.

Mayor Yeiser submitted a protest from property owners against the improvement of the alley between Sixth and Seventh and Broadway and Kentucky avenue at their expense. The lower board referred it to the ordinance committee. The board concurred.

Mayor Yeiser read service on the city in the action of F. G. Rudolph, administrator of Catherine Hessig, against the city et al. Referred to solicitor.

A petition from residents of Jefferson street that the city engineer be instructed to give the Paducah traction company the grade of the street on Jefferson street so that the company may lower its tracks, was granted.

Contracts with Bradley Bros. for furnishing feed for three months; and the West Kentucky Coal company for furnishing coal to the Riverside hospital for three months were ratified.

Several complaints of over assessment were referred to the board of taxbook supervisors.

The report of the tax book supervisors was received and filed.

In the case of Jessie Wicks against the city of Paducah the settlement was ratified.

The report of the city engineer estimating the cost by superficial area of the sewer in district No. 2, was received and filed.

The suggestion of Mayor Yeiser that the city be indemnified against damages for personal injuries was referred to the finance committee with power to act.

Mayor Yeiser read a petition from residents of the south side that if the franchise of the Paducah Traction company on South Sixth and South Third streets calls for a belt line the company be compelled to reinstate that service. It was referred to the



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committee on railroads, telephone and telegraph.

The reply of the Paducah Traction company abandoning certain streets, was referred to the city solicitor.

The matter of building a sewer and culvert on Nineteenth street was referred to the board of public works and city engineer.

The board declined to concur in the action of the lower board, which referred to the joint finance committee a motion that a license ordinance be introduced for the year 1907.

The request of City Clerk Bailey for an appropriation for license tags was referred.

The report of the finance committee was received and filed.

Committee Reports.

On motion of Alderman Bell the ordinance providing for the construction of Boyd street between Sixth and Seventh streets, was passed on its second reading.

On motion of Alderman Bell the rules were suspended and the ordinance providing for the construction of granite curbs, gutters and sidewalks on South Sixth street, between Tennessee and Norton streets, was passed on its second reading.

The ordinance providing for the construction of granite sidewalks and curbs and gutters, on Farley Place, between Myers and Short streets, and Short street between Farley Place and Clements street, was, on motion of Alderman Bell, passed on its first and second readings.

Chairman Hank, of the fire and police committee, submitted the report of the chief of police, which was received and filed.

The following liquor licenses were granted on motion of Chairman Hubbard, of the license committee: J. P. Fowler, 200 Kentucky avenue; T. C. Smith, 1001 Pinley street; J. A. Kruse.

Goheen & Stice, 434 Norton street, applied for license, but officials of the N. C. & St. L. railway and citizens objected.

The remonstrance was received and filed, the motion of Alderman Hubbard that the action of the lower board be concurred in, granting the license lost, only Alderman Miller voting aye.

On motion of Alderman Hubbard a deed to a lot in Oak Grove cemetery was ordered made out to N. A. Woolfolk.

The action of the lower board, ordering a culvert on Broadway over Bradshaw creek from property line to property line was concurred in.

The city treasurer and auditor reported sale and purchase of the delinquent tax list for the first half of the year. The report was received and filed.

The report of the joint finance committee, opposing ex parte proceedings against property owners on Kentucky avenue and Jefferson street to ascertain who must bear the cost of the storm water sewers, was approved and filed.

Alderman Miller said the city solicitor held that the storm water sewers are street improvements, and moved that the city assume one-half the expense, including intersections. The motion was withdrawn when he was informed that it was understood the city was to assume that burden.

The Wicks Case.

Alderman Miller moved that Mrs. Jessie Wicks be paid the amount of her judgment against the city, \$200, less any amount she owes for taxes. The lower board voted to pay the judgment. Alderman Miller's motion prevailed and the matter was sent back to the board of councilmen for concurrence.

On motion of Alderman Miller the ordinance committee was instructed to bring in an ordinance making the position of stock policeman permanent and fixing the salary.

Sewer District No. 3.

Alderman Palmer introduced a resolution that a necessity exists for a sewer in district No. 3, lying west of sewer district No. 2, and north of sewer district No. 1, extending in both directions to the city limits. The resolution was passed on both readings. This resolution is necessary before the city may proceed to build a sewer.

Alderman Palmer requested the mayor to call a special meeting of the lower board to adopt the resolution, and on his motion the ordinance committee was instructed to bring in an ordinance, providing for the sewer in district No. 3.

On motion of Alderman Bell the ordinance committee was instructed to bring in an ordinance, providing for the construction of Broadway and Jefferson street from Ninth street to Eleventh street with bitulithite paving material.

On motion of Alderman Palmer the city engineer was authorized to employ Engineer Alvord to prepare specifications for a sewer in district No. 3. The plans submitted by Alvord were only general.

On motion the board adjourned.

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Sub. 71be for The Sun.

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Railroads	Miles.	Cap.
U. P.	5,475	494,386,244
S. P.	8,703	614,660,633
B. & O.	4,481	422,779,287
N. & W.	1,834	154,100,500
C. & O.	1,708	153,994,354
C. & A.	956	119,046,218
I. C.	5,584	248,912,000

Totals . . . 28,741 \$2,207,879,236

These roads own over 300,000 engines and cars. Their gross income last year was \$170,000,000 and their net income over \$170,000,000. The only other railroad system in the country whose income runs into such fabulous figures is the Pennsylvania. Its gross income in 1905 was \$266,070,000 and its net earnings were about \$95,000,000.

The full significance of the figures regarding the earnings of what may now properly be called the Harriman lines is only grasped when it is recalled that the report of the interstate commerce commission for 1905 showed that the gross earnings of all the 216,973 miles of railway in the United States amounted to \$2,082,428,406 and the net income to \$691,880,254.

In commenting upon the recent turn of affairs in the railroad world, The Chicago Tribune says that Providence made the Union Pacific and the Union Pacific made Harriman. The Union Pacific has not laid many miles of new track since Mr. Harriman became its dominating influence, although its old mileage has been reconstructed. In the same manner President Fish was able to point with pride to the growth of the Illinois Central. Both have prospered.

Homes Free.

The United States service for reclaiming arid lands expects to redeem a total area about equal to that of the state of Wyoming, or more than twice the size of Ohio—all of which will become available for the

THREE FACTS

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FIRST.—That almost every operation in our hospitals performed upon women becomes necessary through neglect of such symptoms as backache, irregular and painful periods, displacements of the female organs, pain in the side, burning sensation in the stomach, bearing-down pains, nervousness, dizziness and sleeplessness.

SECOND.—The medicine that holds the record for the largest number of absolute cures of female ills is Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It regulates, strengthens and cures diseases of the female organism as nothing else can.

For thirty years it has been helping women to be strong, curing backache, nervousness, kidney troubles, inflammation of the female organs, weakness and displacements, regulating the periods perfectly and overcoming their pains. It has also proved itself invaluable in preparing women for childbirth and the change of life.

THIRD.—The great volume of unsolicited and grateful testimonials on file at the Pinkham Laboratory at Lynn, Mass., many of which are from time to time published by permission, give absolute evidence of the value of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Mrs. Pinkham's advice.

Mrs. Pinkham's Standing Invitation to Women.—Women suffering from any form of female weakness are invited to promptly communicate with Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. All letters are received, opened, read and answered by women only. From symptoms given, your trouble may be located and the quickest and surest way of recovery advised. Mrs. Pinkham is daughter-in-law of Lydia E. Pinkham and for twenty-five years under her direction and since her decease she has been advising sick women free of charge. Out of the vast volume of experience in treating female ills Mrs. Pinkham probably has the very knowledge that will help your case. Surely, any woman, rich or poor, is very foolish if she does not take advantage of this generous offer of assistance.

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Is a powerful, invigorating tonic, imparting health and strength in particular to the organs distinctly female. The local, womanly health is so intimately related to the general health that when diseases of the delicate womanly organs are cured the whole body gains in health and strength. For weak and sickly women who are "worn-out," "run-down" or debilitated, especially for women who work in store, office or schoolroom, who sit at the typewriter or sewing machine, or bear heavy household burdens, and for nursing mothers, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has proven a priceless benefit because of its health-restoring and strength-giving powers.

As a soothing and strengthening nerve-tonic, "Favorite Prescription" is unequalled and is invaluable in allaying and subduing nervous excitability, irritability, nervous exhaustion, nervous prostration, neuralgia, hysteria, spasms, chorea, or St. Vitus's dance, and other distressing nervous symptoms commonly attendant upon functional and organic disease of the womanly organs. It induces refreshing sleep and relieves mental anxiety and despondency.

Cures obstinate cases. "Favorite Prescription" is a positive cure for the most complicated and obstinate cases of "female weakness," painful periods, irregularities, prolapsus or falling of the pelvic organs, weak back, bearing-down sensations, chronic congestion, inflammation and ulceration.

Dr. Pierce's medicines are made from harmless but efficient medical roots found growing in our American forests. The Indians knew of the marvelous curative value of some of these roots and imparted that knowledge to some of the frontier whites, and gradually some of the more progressive physicians came to test and use them, and ever since they have grown in favor by reason of their superior curative virtues and their safe and harmless qualities.

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production of crops and the maintenance of a prosperous population, says Robert Franklin, in the November issue of the Technical World Magazine. His article, "Homesteads for the Asking," is a startling account of the fine lands that are open to settlers, which Uncle Sam will give free to those who wish to make their homes in the country, but which are neglected and ignored by the toiling masses of the great cities, who should be only too eager to grasp the opportunity. He tells of the great irrigation projects on foot in the west, by which millions of acres will be redeemed by the farmer. He tells many interesting stories of government engineers and irrigation men—how they traveled unknown canyons and traversed miles upon miles of land without water or food, in their effort to ascertain the best way of getting water to the settlers. The whole article is a stirring tale of endeavor upon the part of the government, which has opened tremendous opportunities for the farmer. Eventually some 60,000,000 acres of desert lands will be converted in this manner into the richest kind of farming territory.—Technical World.



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